Fourteenth Loksabha

Session : 10
Date : 15-03-2007

Participants : Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

an>

Title: Need to review the criteria of selection of backwardness of districts under the scheme of 'Special Development Grants of UGC' to Universities and Colleges.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Attention of the Government is drawn to 'Special Development grants of UGC to eligible Universities and colleges' physically located in Backward Districts based on the total literacy as determined by the Planning Commission. The criteria 'total literacy' fixed by the Commission in order to ensure equity and access to higher education in those backward areas is self-contradictory because higher education is to be encouraged in those backward areas where literacy percentage is comparatively high. It also contradicts the principle of identifying backward areas based on several indexes of socio-economic backwardness fixed by the Planning Commission.

As a consequence many deserving backward districts identified by Planning Commission are deprived of getting UGC grants. For example, the Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts of Assam constituting more than 70% ST, SC and OBC population considered for backward district grants under RSVY and NREGP, are not entitled for the above-referred special grants of UGc.

Planning Commission may also examine the possibility of identifying blocks as a minimum unit for such backward area grants like RSVY, NREGP and UGC since a block far below the level of average backwardness in a developed. district are presently deprived simply because they are not constituent of a backward district. As a test case, the Majuli and Ujani Majuli block of Jorhat district and Sadia development block of Tinsukia district may be studied for a reasonable conclusion.

I therefore urge upon the HRD Ministry and Planning Commission to modify the criteria of above-mentioned special grants for ensuring equitable development.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Leaders of all the Parties are requested to come to the Chamber.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.30 p.m.

12.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes

past Twelve of the Clock.

12.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past

Twelve of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

… (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions) ...*

12.31 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Chandrakant Khaire and some other

hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whosoever speaks without my permission, his statement should not be recorded.

(Interruptions) ...*

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी): जब एन.डी.ए.की सरकार थी, तब बंगाल में बहुत हत्याएं हुई थीं, तब एक दिन के लिए भी एन.डी.ए. सरकार ने दुख व्यक्त नहीं किया, आज ये पोलिटिक्स कर रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen

of the Clock.[MSOffice3]

* Not recorded

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

… (*Interruptions*)

(*At this stage, Shri Chandrakant Khaire and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*)

… (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Government is prepared to make a statement both on the incident of a naxal attack in Chhattisgarh as well as on Nandigram incident. … (*Interruptions*) We are not hiding any facts. … (*Interruptions*) As mentioned by the hon. Members from Chhattisgarh, we are prepared to make a statement on Chhattisgarh incident. On Nandigram incident, we are prepared to offer any updated information. … (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

(Interruptions) ...*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 16th March, 2007 at 11.00 a.m.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock

on Friday, March 16, 2007/Phalguna 25, 1928 (Saka) [r4]

---

* Not recorded

Fld. by b1 [R1]

Leave pages for 377 matters [MSOffice2]

[MSOffice3]fld by e1

[r4] Friday, March 10, 2000/Phalguna 20, 1921 (Saka).